

(1) directly violate a statutory requirement;
or

(2) be likely to present a significant risk to the public health, including environmental health or safety.

(e) Notice of disapproval

If a request is disapproved, the Secretary shall inform the requesting governments in writing of the reasons therefor and shall, to the maximum extent possible, work with such governments to develop an alternative, consistent with the standards contained in subsection (d) of this section.

(f) Period for determination

The Secretary shall discharge the responsibilities of the Secretary under this section in an expeditious manner, and shall make a determination on requests not later than 90 days after their receipt.

(g) Applicable procedures

A waiver or modification of a rule under subsection (a) of this section shall not be considered to be a rule, rulemaking, or regulation under chapter 5 of title 5. To facilitate reaching a decision on any requested waiver or modification, the Secretary may seek the views of interested parties and, if the views are to be sought, determine how they should be obtained and to what extent, if any, they should be taken into account in considering the request. The Secretary shall publish a notice in the Federal Register stating any waiver or modification of a rule under this section.

(h) Effect of subsequent amendment of rules

In the event that the Secretary proposes to amend a rule for which a waiver or modification under this section is in effect, the Secretary shall not change the waiver or modification to impose additional requirements unless the Secretary determines, consistent with standards contained in subsection (d) of this section, that such action is necessary.

(i) Expiration of waivers and modifications

No waiver or modification of a rule under this section shall remain in effect for a longer period than the period for which the enterprise zone designation remains in effect for the area in which the waiver or modification applies.

(j) Definitions

For purposes of this section:

(1) Rule

The term “rule” means—

(A) any rule as defined in section 551(4) of title 5; or

(B) any rulemaking conducted on the record after opportunity for an agency hearing pursuant to sections 556 and 557 of title 5.

(2) Secretary

The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development or, with respect to any rule issued under title V of the Housing Act of 1949 [42 U.S.C. 1471 et seq.], the Secretary of Agriculture.

(Pub. L. 100-242, title VII, § 704, Feb. 5, 1988, 101 Stat. 1962.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Housing Act of 1949, referred to in subsecs. (a) and (j)(2), is act July 15, 1949, ch. 338, 63 Stat. 413, as amended. Title V of the Housing Act of 1949 is classified generally to subchapter III (§1471 et seq.) of chapter 8A of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1441 of this title and Tables.

§ 11505. Coordination with CDBG and UDAG programs

It is the policy of the Congress that amounts provided under the community development block grant and urban development action grant programs under title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 [42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.] shall not be reduced in any fiscal year in which the provisions of this chapter are in effect.

(Pub. L. 100-242, title VII, § 706, Feb. 5, 1988, 101 Stat. 1964.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, referred to in text, is Pub. L. 93-383, Aug. 22, 1974, 88 Stat. 633, as amended. Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 is classified principally to chapter 69 (§5301 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 5301 of this title and Tables.

CHAPTER 121—INTERNATIONAL CHILD ABDUCTION REMEDIES

Sec.	
11601.	Findings and declarations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Findings. (b) Declarations.
11602.	Definitions.
11603.	Judicial remedies. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Jurisdiction of courts. (b) Petitions. (c) Notice. (d) Determination of case. (e) Burdens of proof. (f) Application of Convention. (g) Full faith and credit. (h) Remedies under Convention not exclusive.
11604.	Provisional remedies. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Authority of courts. (b) Limitation on authority.
11605.	Admissibility of documents.
11606.	United States Central Authority. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Designation. (b) Functions. (c) Regulatory authority. (d) Obtaining information from Parent Locator Service. (e) Grant authority. (f) Limited liability of private entities acting under the direction of the United States Central Authority.
11607.	Costs and fees. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Administrative costs. (b) Costs incurred in civil actions.
11608.	Collection, maintenance, and dissemination of information. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) In general. (b) Requests for information. (c) Responsibility of government entities. (d) Information available from Parent Locator Service. (e) Recordkeeping.
11608a.	Office of Children's Issues.

Sec.

- (a) Director requirements.
- (b) Case officer staffing.
- (c) Embassy contact.
- (d) Reports to parents.
- 11609. Interagency coordinating group.
- 11610. Authorization of appropriations.
- 11611. Report on compliance with the Hague Convention on International Child Abduction.
 - (a) In general.
 - (b) Definition.

§ 11601. Findings and declarations**(a) Findings**

The Congress makes the following findings:

- (1) The international abduction or wrongful retention of children is harmful to their well-being.
- (2) Persons should not be permitted to obtain custody of children by virtue of their wrongful removal or retention.
- (3) International abductions and retentions of children are increasing, and only concerted cooperation pursuant to an international agreement can effectively combat this problem.
- (4) The Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, done at The Hague on October 25, 1980, establishes legal rights and procedures for the prompt return of children who have been wrongfully removed or retained, as well as for securing the exercise of visitation rights. Children who are wrongfully removed or retained within the meaning of the Convention are to be promptly returned unless one of the narrow exceptions set forth in the Convention applies. The Convention provides a sound treaty framework to help resolve the problem of international abduction and retention of children and will deter such wrongful removals and retentions.

(b) Declarations

The Congress makes the following declarations:

- (1) It is the purpose of this chapter to establish procedures for the implementation of the Convention in the United States.
- (2) The provisions of this chapter are in addition to and not in lieu of the provisions of the Convention.
- (3) In enacting this chapter the Congress recognizes—
 - (A) the international character of the Convention; and
 - (B) the need for uniform international interpretation of the Convention.
- (4) The Convention and this chapter empower courts in the United States to determine only rights under the Convention and not the merits of any underlying child custody claims.

(Pub. L. 100-300, §2, Apr. 29, 1988, 102 Stat. 437.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in subsec. (b), was in the original “this Act” meaning Pub. L. 100-300, Apr. 29, 1988, 102 Stat. 437, which is classified principally to this chapter. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note below and Tables.

SHORT TITLE OF 2004 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 108-370, §1, Oct. 25, 2004, 118 Stat. 1750, provided that: “This Act [amending section 11606 of this

title] may be cited as the ‘Prevention of Child Abduction Partnership Act’.”

SHORT TITLE

Section 1 of Pub. L. 100-300 provided that: “This Act [enacting this chapter and amending section 663 of this title] may be cited as the ‘International Child Abduction Remedies Act’.”

§ 11602. Definitions

For the purposes of this chapter—

(1) the term “applicant” means any person who, pursuant to the Convention, files an application with the United States Central Authority or a Central Authority of any other party to the Convention for the return of a child alleged to have been wrongfully removed or retained or for arrangements for organizing or securing the effective exercise of rights of access pursuant to the Convention;

(2) the term “Convention” means the Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, done at The Hague on October 25, 1980;

(3) the term “Parent Locator Service” means the service established by the Secretary of Health and Human Services under section 653 of this title;

(4) the term “petitioner” means any person who, in accordance with this chapter, files a petition in court seeking relief under the Convention;

(5) the term “person” includes any individual, institution, or other legal entity or body;

(6) the term “respondent” means any person against whose interests a petition is filed in court, in accordance with this chapter, which seeks relief under the Convention;

(7) the term “rights of access” means visitation rights;

(8) the term “State” means any of the several States, the District of Columbia, and any commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States; and

(9) the term “United States Central Authority” means the agency of the Federal Government designated by the President under section 11606(a) of this title.

(Pub. L. 100-300, §3, Apr. 29, 1988, 102 Stat. 437.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in text, was in the original “this Act” meaning Pub. L. 100-300, Apr. 29, 1988, 102 Stat. 437, which is classified principally to this chapter. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note under section 11601 of this title and Tables.

§ 11603. Judicial remedies**(a) Jurisdiction of courts**

The courts of the States and the United States district courts shall have concurrent original jurisdiction of actions arising under the Convention.

(b) Petitions

Any person seeking to initiate judicial proceedings under the Convention for the return of a child or for arrangements for organizing or securing the effective exercise of rights of access to a child may do so by commencing a civil ac-